ART:
MAHIRO SATOU

ORIGINAL STORY:
JIN (SHIZEN NO TEKI P)

CHARACTER DESIGN:
SIDU, WANNYANPOO

TAKANE!

IT'S STARTING TO SNOW!

WHOA!

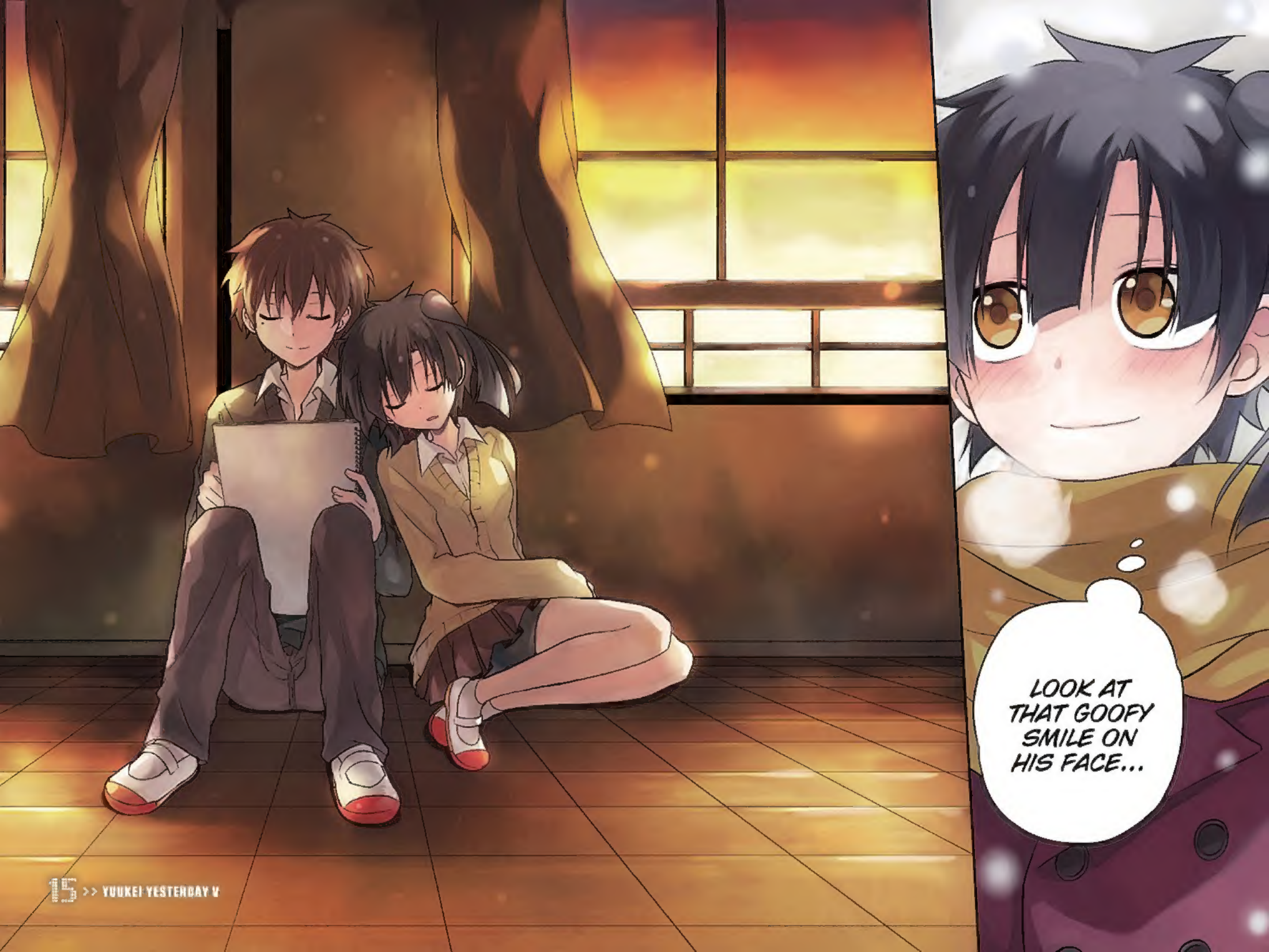
IT SURE IS!

YOU THINK IT'LL STICK?

YEAH, MAYBE!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE!

WELL, I HOPE NOT. IT'S TOO COLD...


LOOK AT THAT GOOFY SMILE ON HIS FACE...

KAGEROU DAZE 4

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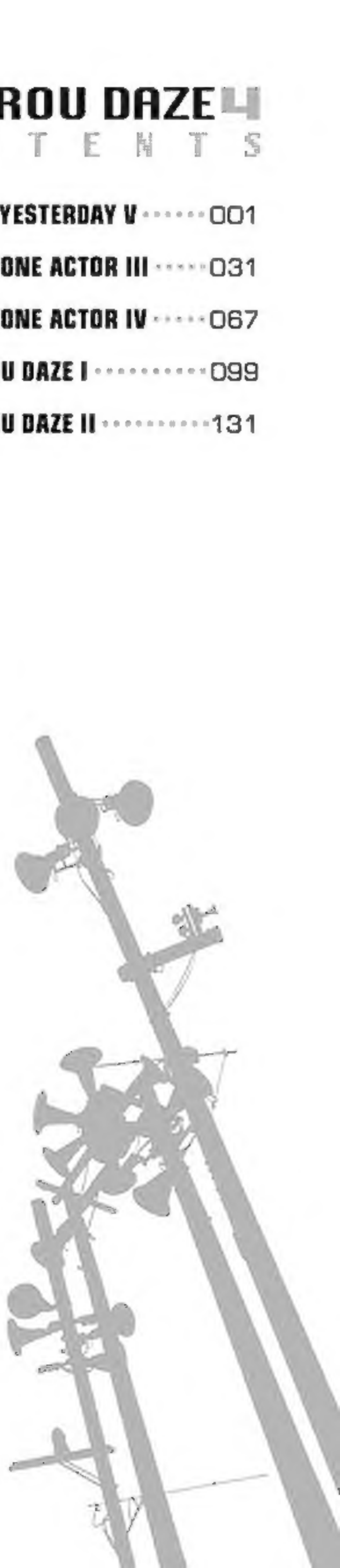


THIS YEAR, HARUKA'S TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO PLAN A HOLIDAY PARTY.

IT'S BEEN SEVERAL MONTHS SINCE THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL... IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS, IN FACT.

SU (SLIP)

IT ALSO...

GARA (SLIDE)

...JUST HAPPENS TO BE HARUKA'S BIRTHDAY.

HEE HEE!

I KEPT THIS A TOTAL SECRET.

I BET HARUKA'S GONNA LOVE THIS.

I MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO SAVE UP AND CHOOSE THE PERFECT GIFT!

IF HE DOESN'T REACT AT ALL, I SWEAR I'LL PUNCH HIM!

HEE HEE HEE.

NIKO (GRIND)

NIKO

BUT ON THE BIG DAY...

...HARUKA HAD ANOTHER ONE OF HIS ATTACKS.

I ONLY JUST GOT HERE TOO.

BA (RUSH)

SEN-SEI!!

HOW'S HARU-KA...!?

GACHA GCHAKO

HARU-KA!!!

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT APPARENTLY, IT'S NOTHING TOO SERIOUS.

HIS ROOM'S OVER THIS WAY.

.....

MOGU CMUNCH

MOGU

MMNH?

...KOKO-NOSE-SAN'S ALREADY EATEN ENOUGH FOR FIVE PEOPLE.

HARUKA...

WHEW!

IN THE END, THEY KEPT HARUKA IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A WEEK.

SORRY, YOU GUYS.

MOGU CHEWING

MOGU

もぐ

もぐ

HAAAH ...

THAT STAY LASTED A WHILE LONGER; HE COULDN'T LEAVE HIS ROOM FOR A WHOLE MONTH.

AFTER WINTER BREAK, HE WAS HIS USUAL PEPPY SELF AT SCHOOL...

...BUT ANOTHER EPISODE SENT HIM BACK TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER A MONTH.

AFTER THE SCHOOL FESTI-VAL...

...HARUKA KIND OF GOT ADDICTED TO DEAD BULLET -1989-.

ONCE I GET OUT, I'M GONNA HAVE TO PRACTICE UP!

WELL, I MEAN, I CAN'T PLAY ANY VIDEO GAMES IN HERE.

WHY'RE YOU SIGHING LIKE THAT?

AFTER WE GOT DONE WITH CLEANUP ON THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL...

COME ON, SENSE!!

東元校

AW, DON'T GET SO UPSET!

BESIDES, I'M TREATING YOU GUYS TO CHINESE TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

WELL, RUNNING IT BY OURSELVES WAS A HUGE PAIN!

RIGHT, HARUKA?

MOGU

MOGU

MMH!

BA

BA (FWIP)

YOU CAN'T JUST SAY...

..."THE HERO OF THE DAY ALWAYS ARRIVES LATE, RIGHT?"

THAT MAKES NO SENSE!!

YEAH, WELL...

REGARDLESS...

...THE FESTIVAL WAS STILL PRETTY FUN FOR YOU GUYS, WASN'T IT?

MOGO

MOGO

OOH, RRRPH THINH THA' LOOPH RIUH GOOH TOO.

WELL, WE HAD OUR SHARE OF TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES ALONG THE WAY, BUT—

OOH! HEY, THIS STEAMED BUN IS CRAZY GOOD!

EW! DON'T BE GROSS, HARUKA!

AT LEAST SWALLOW BEFORE YOU START TALKING!

SOR-RYYY...

AND DON'T THINK I'M THROUGH WITH YOU YET, SENSE!! STOP DRINKING ALL THAT BEER!

HOW MANY MUGS IS THAT ANYWAY!?

UUUGH...

GEEN...

I TOLD YOU—DON'T CALL ME BY THAT NAME EVER AGAIN!

THE WAY YOU MOWED DOWN ALL THOSE BAD GUYS, ENE...!

HAH HAH HAH!

YOU FINALLY WERE EXPOSED, HUH, TAKANE?

"HOLY NIGHTMARE," WAS IT?

BOY, THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING THOUGH, HUH?

PIKU CTWITCH

WELL... YEAH, BUT...

...WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?

OH, I DUNNO.

IT JUST SEEMED KINDA NEAT.

BOGU (WALLOP)

OW!!

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ANYTHING BAD, SO DON'T GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT IT, ENE—

YEAH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT OR ANYTHING!

BUT YOU KNOW, THAT HANDLE ...

"ENE" IS FROM YOUR NAME, RIGHT? "E" FROM "ENOMOTO" AND THE "NE" FROM "TAKANE"?

MOGU MOGU CHUNCHO

HMM...

HEY, I WANNA COME UP WITH ONE TOO!

GEEZ...

GAMING HANDLES ARE THE KIND OF THING YOU MAKE UP ON THE FLY, OKAY? YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANALYZE THEM LIKE THAT...

LIKE, IT'S SORT OF COOL, HAVING ANOTHER NAME THAT ISN'T YOUR REAL ONE.

WHAT ABOUT THE "DANCING FLASH" THING? IS THAT RELATED TO YOU—?

WHOA! WAIT, WAIT! I'M SORRY! JUST PUT YOUR FIST DOWN!

YEAH, SURE, WHATEVER.

GREAT TO MEET YOU, KONOHA-KUN.

OOOOH!

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT...! THINK I'LL START SPREADING THAT NAME AROUND!

I'M HARUKA KOKONOSE, SO...

...HOW ABOUT "KONOHA"?

ONCE I'M OUT, WE GOTTA PLAY TOGETHER, TAKANE!

—WHICH LEADS US TO TODAY.

...BUT NOW IT MAKES ME KIND OF HAPPY.

I USED TO MAKE SUCH AN EFFORT TO HIDE MY GAMING HABIT FROM HARUKA...

WE BOTH MOVED UP TO THE NEXT GRADE SOON AFTERWARD...

...BUT HARUKA'S ATTACKS DIDN'T SHOW MUCH SIGN OF ABATING.

HARUKA ...

HOPE HE GETS BETTER SOON...

SOON...

...IT WAS SUMMER VACATION.

MIN

MIIN (BUZZZ)

MIIN

MIN

MIIN

MIN

SSSSSH...

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO SOLVE THESE...

I'M SCREWED ...

N-NO!

SHUT UP!

OH, YOU STUCK ON SOMETHING, TAKANE?

NEED A LITTLE TUTOR-ING?

HUH!?

YOU GOT DONE SO FAST!!

THERE WE GO!

TON (TAP)

TON

KASA (SHUF)

AH!

UH...NOT THAT I'D BE LONELY OR ANYTHING...

SU (SHP)

N-NO WAY...

YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY!?

FUI (PWTP)

HARUKA'S PRETTY SMART, AFTER ALL... SMARTER THAN ME ANYWAY.

THE ONLY REASON HE'S IN SUMMER SCHOOL IS TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE DAYS HE MISSED.

I MEAN, IT'S A FREE COUNTRY.

GOTON (CLUNK)

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

WELL, GO STUFF YOUR FACE TO YOUR STOMACH'S CONTENT, I GUESS.

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

BE-SIDES...

...I CAN HANDLE THESE PROBLEMS BY MYSELF, YOU KNOW.

GOSO

HUH?

10

PA (FLASH)

DEADLINE

ABOUT

CHARACTERISTICS

OPTIONS

WHA...?

KATA (TAPPA)

KATA

THE CHAMPIONSHIP'S COMING UP... PLUS, WATCHING ME PLAY OUGHTA INSPIRE YOU TO FINISH THOSE WORK SHEETS FASTER, HUH?

UGH...

YOU'RE GONNA START PLAYING HERE!? RIGHT NEXT TO ME!!?

SURE AM!

WH-WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?

YOU CAN'T JUST PLAY BY YOURSELF AND BOOST YOUR SKILLS WITHOUT ME...

THAT'S NOT FAIR! I WANNA PLAY TOO!

I ALREADY GOT MY WORK SHEETS DONE, SO...

WELL, THAT'S KINDA YOUR FAULT, ISN'T IT?

AGH! WAIT, YOU CAN'T!

I GOTTA GET YOU TO FINISH THAT WORK FIRST!

GATA (RATTLE)

I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE! I WANNA PLAY TOO!

GATA

BUT... BUT...

.....

ニヤッ

NIKO (GRIN)

I'LL PLAY WITH YOU ONCE YOU'RE DONE...

...SO GET CRACKING, OKAY?

THE NEXT TOURNAMENT IS SOON.

I WAS PLANNING TO HOLE UP IN MY ROOM ALL SUMMER TO PRACTICE FOR IT TOO...

NIKO

NIKO

CHIRA (GLANCE)

THOUGH I'M SURE HARUKA HATES WASTING SUMMER IN HERE TOO...

AND YET, HARUKA NEVER COMPLAINS ABOUT ANYTHING.

"IT'S ACTUALLY A LOT OF FUN," HE'D SAY, "AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN CLASS WITH ME."

BUT WHAT'S HE REALLY THINK ABOUT IT INSIDE?

.....

...I COULDN'T EVEN VENTURE A GUESS.

BUT THEN, I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN HIM DEPRESSED ABOUT ANYTHING.

HE'S NOT DEPRESSED ABOUT IT, AT LEAST...

SHOULD I BUY IT OR NOT? IT'S SOME KINDA PRE-TOURNEY BONUS!

OOH, HEY, THERE'S A NEW WEAPON AVAIL-ABLE!

EVEN WHEN OUR LACK OF TEAM MEMBERS BENCHED US DURING THE SPORTS MEET HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO...

EVEN WHEN I WAS THE ONLY CLASSMATE HE HAD LEFT...

HE WAS ALWAYS SMILING.

EVEN WHEN HE WAS FORCED OUT OF CLASS AND INTO THE HOSPITAL...

AND ALL THAT TIME...

ちら

CHIRA (GLANCE)

HAAAH...

...WATCHING HIM SMILE WOULD ALWAYS ENRAGE ME, EXASPERATE ME...

...AND GRADUALLY ENRAPTURE ME.

.....

BAN (B-AM)

ZUGAGAGAGA (BABABOOM)

BA

WHAT'S UP?

GIVE ME ONE SEC, OKAY? I'VE GOT A MATCH STARTING!

IT'S LIKE WATCHING A CHILD SOME-TIMES...!

.....

HEY, HARUKA...?

HMM?

AH!

I KNOW...

DOGAGAGA (KABOOM)

IF HE'S GONNA STAY LATE, HE COULD AT LEAST TRY TO PAY A LITTLE MORE ATTENTION TO ME.

HOW IS THIS GONNA MAKE ME FINISH UP QUICKER?

I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE WITH ALL THAT GUNFIRE!

IRA (IRK)

IRA

GA (BANG)

GA

BAN

GA

GA

BAN

I'M SURE HE'LL BE THE SAME TOO.

...IS DOOMED TO REMAIN ALONE AND UNNOTICED.

WHEN YOU SLIP INTO YOUR OWN LITTLE WORLD LIKE THIS, ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO ENGAGE WITH YOU...

I'LL JUST FIND SOME RADIO STATION...

HEH HEH.

...MAYBE THAT'LL THROW HIM ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM STOP PLAYING.

IF I PUT THESE ON AND TRY TO ACT LIKE I DON'T CARE ABOUT HIM...

...MAYBE.

HARUKA HAS TO NOTICE THIS AND SPEAK UP SOONER OR LATER.
GORON (SPRAWL)
THEN...
HEE HEE!
...I CAN FIRE BACK WITH SOME-THING LIKE "BOTHER ME LATER! I'M BUSY LISTENING TO THIS!"

...GEEZ, STILL?
TWENTY MINUTES LATER

.....

.....

YAWN...

THIS IS GETTING SOOOO BORING!

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GO HOME ALREADY!

IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S INNOCENT EITHER!

DAMMIT...

STILL IGNORING ME LIKE THIS... THAT'S JUST BEING MEAN!

WHY AM I PUTTING MYSELF THROUGH ALL OF THIS FOR HIS SAKE?

DATA SCATTERED

HEY! HELLOOO!?

HA—

.....

THAT, OR...

...AM I REALLY THAT UNATTRACTIVE TO HIM...?

HARUKA
...?

AW, COME ON...

STOP SCREWING AROUND WITH ME.

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY ANYWAY...?

UH...?

GATA (CLATTER)

HA...

HARUKA !!?

HEY, HARUKA...

GURA (SLUMP)

BA (LUNGE)

NO WAY...

IS THIS... ANOTHER ATTACK...?

KATA

KATA

KATA (SHIVER)

UH...

HARU-KA!?

HA-RUKA, GET UP!!!

HEY!

COME ON, HARU-KA!!

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE!?

HEY!

HEY! HELLO !?

SHIN (SILENCE)

HE FEELS SO COLD...

AH!

WHAT DO I DO...

WHAT DO I DO...?

GYU (SQUEEZE)

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

I WAS BEING SO STUBBORN OVER A BUNCH OF STUPID CRAP, AND HERE HE WAS, SUFFERING...

SOME-
BODY,
HELP...

PLEASE...

SOMEBODY...

KAGEROU DAZE

HELP US...

SOME-BODY...

...HELP US...!

GARA (SLIDE)

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

GYU (CLENCH)

DO...

...DO YOU THINK HARUKA WILL WAKE UP?

...

PATA

PATA (TPP)

PATA

BIKU (SHUDDER)

.....

...

SENSEI...

WELL, SURE!

NI GGRIND

IS HE...?

IS HE GONNA GET BETTER?

HARUKA WAS SUFFERING BY HIMSELF, AND I HAD NO IDEA...

PON (PAT)

PON

HE'S MADE IT THIS FAR. I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE.

.....

MAYBE HARUKA WAS TRYING TO GET MY HELP BACK THERE...

ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS GETTING ATTENTION...

KATA (SHIVER)

KATA

AND LOOK AT ME...

LIKE, "I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY" OR WHATEVER?

WHAT COULD SOMEONE AS STUPID AS ME POSSIBLY SAY TO HARUKA WHEN HE WAKES UP?

GYU (CLENCH)

ACTING ALL NICE AND PROPER...!

AND NOW, I'M SITTING HERE, PRETENDING THAT-I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT HIM...

...SO SELFISH.

I WAS SO POWER-LESS...

IF SENSEI HADN'T COME FOR ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.

—NO.

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SIT NEXT TO HARUKA.

NO RIGHT TO WORRY ABOUT HIM...

SO...

...HOW'D IT GO?

...I SEE.

WELL, ALL RIGHT... THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

.....

GAGA (WHIRRR)

OH!

WE SHOULD STAY HERE UNTIL HARUKA'S FAMILY COMES BY.

HE MIGHT WAKE UP WHILE WE'RE WAITING, SO...

WHEW...

.....

HE'S ALIVE...

KUPU CTURNO

HE'S STILL ASLEEP...

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MANAGED TO SAVE HIS LIFE.

...HOW WILL HE ACT ONCE HE REALIZES WHAT AN ASS I'VE BEEN TO HIM?

WHEN HE WAKES UP...

HARUKA...

SENSEI...

HE MIGHT NOT EVEN WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN...

AH!

...I BETTER GO GET HARUKA'S THINGS...

HMM?

OH YEAH, I GUESS WE LEFT HIS WALLET AND PHONE BACK THERE, HUH...?

YOU GONNA BE OKAY BY YOURSELF THOUGH?

I'LL BE FINE...

JUST BE SURE...

...YOU STAY NEARBY FOR HARUKA, OKAY?

YOU KNOW, IN CASE HE WAKES UP AND STUFF.

H-HEY...

...BE CAREFUL, OKAY...?

FURA (STAGGER)

SIGN: VISITING HOURS

入退
時間

SU (FWD)

...IT'S ALREADY BEEN ALMOST A YEAR SINCE THAT CRAZY SCHOOL FESTIVAL...

...WHEN ALL THOSE DOZENS OF GAMERS CROWDED OUT IN THE HALLWAY.

IT'S FUNNY TO THINK...

BOY, WHAT AN ORDEAL THAT TURNED OUT TO BE...

...NOT TO MENTION THE FIRST TIME I HAD A CHANCE TO MAKE A FEMALE FRIEND.

IT WAS THE DAY HARUKA FIRST GOT INTO ONLINE GAMING TOO...

OH!

HEY, TAKANE-SAN!

A LOT OF THINGS GOT KICKED OFF THAT DAY.

OH! HEY, AYANO-CHAN.

GOOD TO SEE YOU.

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.

"OO"

...ARE YOU IN SUMMER SCHOOL, AYANO-CHAN?

GIKUN (TWITCH)

OH...

BUT WHAT'RE YOU STILL DOING IN SCHOOL?

WELL ...

HEH HEH HEH...

BUT... OH RIGHT!

I THINK MY DAD SAID THAT YOU AND HARUKA-SAN ARE IN SUMMER SCHOOL TOO, RIGHT?

BIKU (TWITCH)

!!!

AREN'T YOU JUST A FIRST-YEAR STU-DENT?

UH...

WELL, YEAH...

BUT MY GRADES ARE ALREADY PRETTY DIRE, SO...

BY SOME STROKE OF LUCK, THE PAIR THAT VISITED OUR BOOTH THAT DAY GOT INTO THIS HIGH SCHOOL.

I MADE FRIENDS WITH AYANO-CHAN, THE GIRL, PRETTY SOON AFTERWARD.

NOT LIKE WE WANT TO BE HERE.

YEAH, UH, BETTER NOT DWELL ON IT TOO MUCH, OKAY?

STILL, THOUGH ...

...I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THAT FREAK...

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT ...?

AND WHY IS SENSEI BLABBING ABOUT ME TO HER?

?

OH, BY THE WAY...

...IS THAT GUY NOT HERE TODAY?

YOU MEAN SHIN-TARO?

SHE'S SO EASY TO READ SOME-TIMES...

PFFT!

OH...

YEAH, HE IS PRETTY SMART, ISN'T HE?

.....

HEE HEE HEE...

NIKO (SMILE)

NIKO

NIKO

NO WAY! HE'S WAAAY TOO SMART TO BE LANDING HIMSELF IN SUMMER SCHOOL...

HE'S REALLY A GOOD GUY, ONCE YOU START TALKING TO HIM.

HE'S JUST KIND OF SHY, IS ALL.

NIKO (BEAM)

THAT MUST MAKE IT ALL THE TOUGHER FOR YOU, AYANO-CHAN...

...HAVING TO DEAL WITH THAT SELFISH CREEP ALL THE TIME.

HUH?

OHHH, HE'S NOT LIKE THAT.

NAH...

I WOULDN'T BE ANY GOOD FOR HIM.

REALLY? HUH...

HE MUST BE HAPPY HAVING A FRIEND LIKE YOU AT HIS SIDE EVERY DAY, HUH?

OH!

HA HA...

HANG ON A SEC...

THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE IN THE WORLD'S MORE SELF-ABSORBED THAN HIM!

UM...

DID I SAY SOME-THING I SHOULDN'T HAVE?

YOU KNOW... SHINTARO, HE...

HE NEEDS SOMEONE MORE SELF-ABSORBED THAN HIM.

SOMEONE WITH ENOUGH ENERGY TO PULL HIM TOWARD HER.

THAT'S KIND OF... ME, ISN'T IT?

HE'S SUPER HEAD-STRONG...

HE ONLY THINKS ABOUT HIMSELF...

HE'S FRUSTRAT-INGLY ELUSIVE...

HE NEVER SAYS WHAT HE REALLY THINKS ABOUT PEOPLE—

...UM, HANG ON A SECOND.

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

UH— N-NO, NOTHING!

JUST THINKING OUT LOUD!

HUH?

HA HA... OH, NO WAY...

FURU (SHAKE)

FURU

HARUKA HAD AN EPISODE TODAY.

SENSEI'S AT THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW...

...BUT I HAVE TO GO GET HIS STUFF FROM THE CLASS-ROOM...

BUT ANYWAY, SORRY TO HOLD YOU UP, AYANO-CHAN.

OH NO, NOT AT ALL.

HOW ABOUT WE GO HOME TOGETHER, TAKANE-SAN?

OH, UH...

I KINDA CAN'T.

OH NO...

IS HARUKA-SAN DOING ALL RIGHT...?

UH-HUH!

I'M REALLY SORRY!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO DELAY YOU LIKE THIS...

PEKO (BOW)

OH NO!

NO PROB-LEM!

PEKO

BESIDES...

HE ISN'T AWAKE YET, BUT THEY SAID HIS LIFE ISN'T IN DANGER OR ANYTHING.

THAT, AND SENSEI'S THERE FOR HIM TOO, SO WE'RE ALL GOOD.

...I'D JUST BE IN THE WAY OVER THERE ANYWAY...

TAKANE-SAN...

I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT YOU TWO, YOU KNOW?

YEAH...

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I MEAN...

...HARUKA-SAN WOULD NEVER THINK YOU'RE IN THE WAY OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?

I MEAN, I ALMOST WISH...

...I COULD TAKE HIS STUFF TO THE HOSPITAL AND JUST HEAD HOME...

AH!

BUT...I DUNNO.

I'D JUST FEEL WEIRD, BEING NEAR HIM RIGHT NOW.

TAKANE-SAN...

...I THINK YOU'RE BEING FAR TOO DISHONEST WITH YOURSELF.

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE ALL THE FACTS HERE...

THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW FULL WELL WHAT YOUR HEART IS REALLY TELLING YOU TO DO.

...BUT YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT HARUKA-SAN, RIGHT?

WELL, YEAH...

...BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED TO TELL HIM, AREN'T YOU?

BUT YOU'RE PINNING THE BLAME ON HARUKA INSTEAD...

AND ALSO...

N-NO, I...

...THERE ARE TIMES...

...YOU WANT TO TELL SOMEONE SOMETHING, BUT YOU WIND UP BEING TOO LATE.

YES. YES, YOU ARE.

YOU NEED TO SEE HARUKA AND TELL HIM HOW YOU HONESTLY FEEL.

THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN IF YOU DO IT RIGHT NOW.

SO...

...TRY TO DRUM UP A LITTLE COURAGE, OKAY?

AYANO-CHAN...

AND LOOK, IF HE BRUSHES YOU OFF, I'VE GOT A SHOULDER YOU CAN CRY ON, YOU KNOW?

BO (BLUSH)

ANYWAY, I'D BETTER GET GOING NOW.

WAIT!

I...I'M REALLY NOT...

TA TA TA TA TA

I...

I...

TA (TAP)

OOF...

MAN, SHE REALLY TOLD ME OFF...

—HOW I HON-ESTLY FEEL.

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR ACTING SO SELFISH AROUND HIM.

BUT THAT ISN'T EVEN THE REAL PROBLEM.

I'VE GROWN SO ACCUSTOMED TO TRYING TO COVER THINGS UP...

...I HAVE TROUBLE FIGURING OUT EXACTLY WHAT I FEEL.

THAT'S WHY I PULLED THAT STUPID STUNT A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

BUT...

...THIS IS TOO DIFFICULT OF A CHALLENGE FOR ME.

IT'D BE FINE BY ME IF THINGS WENT BACK TO HOW THEY WERE BEFORE...

...THE SAME CLASS-ROOM, THE SAME DAY IN, DAY OUT ROUTINE.

SIGN: SCIENCE STORAGE

理科準備中

IF NOTHING HAD TO CHANGE...

GARA (SLIDE)

AH...

OH!

MORNING, TAKANE!

HARUKA ISN'T HERE!

HARU...

...KA...

KUN (THUMP)

...WON'T MAKE IT HERE EVER AGAIN...

DOKUN

DOKUN

MAYBE HARUKA...

DOKUN (BADUM)

DOKUN...

DOKUN

BA (CZWIP)

NOW I FINALLY UNDER-STAND...

...WHAT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

GARA (SLIDE)

ALL THIS TIME...

...THE THING I WANTED TO TELL HIM...

THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE.

I GOTTA GET TO HIS ROOM.

AND WHEN HARUKA WAKES UP...

...I'LL TELL HIM.

"SORRY ABOUT BEFORE"?

NO.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I NEED TO SAY THE MOST.

THE THING I'VE GOT TO SAY TO HIM RIGHT NOW IS...

FU (FLICK)

KURA
(REEL)

DO
(WHUD)
HUH?
I CAN BARELY BREATHE.
AGH...
NGH... AH...!!?

NOT NOW, OF ALL TIMES...!

HFF...

NO! COME ON, MOVE!

NOW I'M HAVING AN ATTACK TOO...!?

NO...

WHY IS HE HERE?

HUH...?

ZA (SKSH)

NO...I'M BLACKING OUT...

I HAVE TO TELL HIM RIGHT NOW!

HEH...

I HAVE TO TELL HIM.

...YOU WANT TO TELL SOMEONE SOMETHING, BUT YOU WIND UP BEING TOO LATE.

THERE ARE TIMES...

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...

I HAD THE SIMPLEST THING TO TELL HIM AND I TOOK TOO MUCH TIME FOR IT.

I FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT...
I THOUGHT ...
...I COULD FINALLY SAY IT TO HIM...
I GUESS... IT DIDN'T WORK OUT AFTER ALL.
...IT'S THAT HE WASN'T HERE.
IT WASN'T THAT SOMETHING WAS MISSING...

—HARUKA,
I LOVE YOU.

THIS WAS THE PLACE...

I WISH WE COULD JUST DO AWAY WITH THIS WHOLE WORLD...!

...THE ONLY PLACE WE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO TELL HIM...!

...I FINALLY REALIZED WHAT MY TRUE FEELINGS ARE.

MAYBE I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME, BUT RIGHT AT THE VERY END...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT.

SORRY...
TAKANE.

KAGEROU DAZE

17 >> HEADPHONE ACTOR IV

MY PAINFULLY RESTRICTED BREATHING....

...AND MY LEGS, WHICH FELT LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO BE RIPPED OFF...

DID MY LAST WORDS MAKE IT THROUGH?

THEY'RE ALL FINE NOW.

I
WONDER...

...IS THIS
WHAT
DEATH IS
LIKE?

...WOW, I CAN TALK.

UM... AND I... I HAVE A BODY TOO.

UGH...

THIS IS MAKING NO SENSE AT ALL TO—

AH!

AH!

HUH!?

AHHH, AHHH...!

IT'S LIKE...

...WAS I JUST HAVING SOME KIND OF WEIRD DREAM UP TILL NOW...?

OKAY, SO WHERE AM I, THEN?

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I'M LOCKED UP OR ANY-THING...

I DID EVERY-THING I COULD TO REACH THAT HILL...

THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS FALLING APART.

WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS IN THAT CLASS-ROOM...

...THROUGH THE HEAD-PHONES, I HEARD ANOTHER VERSION OF MYSELF.

...AND THEN...

HMM...

MY "ILLNESS" MUST HAVE MADE ME LOSE CON-SCIOUS-NESS.

I THINK I WAS REALLY WORKED UP ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER...

WHAT WAS IT, WHAT WAS IT...?

BUT HOW DID I WAKE UP IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

IT WAS LIKE I'D JUST WOKEN UP AFTER SUDDENLY PASSING OUT.

HELLO-OOO!?

IS ANYONE AROUND!?

NNNGH!! I'M TOTALLY LOST HERE!!

IT'S SO FREAKIN' DARK TOO!!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!!?

WELL, THAT CAME OUT OF NO-WHERE...

WHAT'S THIS...? SOME KINDA TV?

SUSUSU (SNIFF)

Y...

YEAGH!

APPEAR

BIKU (JUMP)

WHAT IS THAT...?

SOME KIND OF LAB ROOM?

HMM...

IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE MUCH... BUT I THINK SOMEONE'S TALKING?

—ze One looks like a success anyway.

Hah hah!

I wasn't expecting results like these on the first try.

SENSEI ...?

The year I spent preparing for this certainly seems worth it now!

THAT VOICE...

EH...

HUH...?

UGH, IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING!!

WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE...?

...IS THAT...?

WHAT...

WAIT, IS THAT...

...M-ME...!?

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?

I MEAN...

I'M RIGHT HERE...!

AH!

THIS ISN'T WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BECOME, LIKE, A GHOST, IS IT?

AM I REALLY DEAD...?

PETAN (SLUMP)

NO WAY...

I THINK I HEARD SENSEI'S VOICE COME FROM THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE...

...BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

WAIT, NO! I MEAN, I'M DEFINITELY STILL HERE AND EVERY-THING...

I HAVEN'T DISAP-PEARED!

I CAN'T SEE AT ALL...

HE'S TOO FAR IN...

BETAAA (PRESS)

OOH, SENSEI! THERE HE IS!

WHA...?

HA...

HARUKA ...!?

I KNOW WHO THAT IS.
IT'S KONOHA, THE GAME PERSONA HARUKA MADE!
BUT...BUT WHY...!?

...NO.
THAT WHITE HAIR, THOSE LIGHT PINK EYES...

?
Anyway, the key is now firmly in my grasp.

But, Konoha... you still haven't—

Now I can open the next Kagerou Daze.

HUH!?

ZAAA (KZZRSH)

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!? MY BODY'S GONNA...!!!

AHHH...!

WHAT... WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ME!!?

YAAGH!!

DUH...

"DEE-LEE-TEE"!?

BAAAN DUNDUND

DELF E

Dr

AH!

DAAH! NOTHING HAP-PENED!

WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN, THEN!?

ZAAAAAA OKIZZRRSHO

DEE HEE HEE! ☆

NOT LIKE I HAD MUCH THERE ANYWAY...

OH WELL.

...MY CHEST...

AND...

AHHH, MY FEET ARE GONE...!!

...I'M PROBABLY GONNA DISAPPEAR...

AHH...

ALL I KNOW IS...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...

I CAN'T GO LIKE THIS...

OH...

...GOD...

...AH, MY POOR GIRL.
YOU'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR BODY. WHAT FURTHER POINT IS THERE TO LIVING NOW?
WHAT...?

I CAN CARVE A NICHE FOR MYSELF ANYWHERE I FEEL LIKE. IT'LL BE FINE.

WELL, I'LL MAKE ONE, THEN.

WELL...

EVEN IF YOU WENT BACK, THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT FOR YOU IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOW.

I MEAN, I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...

OF...OF COURSE!

THAT'S HOW BADLY YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE, IS IT?

OH, SOMEONE'S ACTING A TAD TOO BIG FOR HER BRITCHES, ISN'T SHE?

WELL, GIRL, IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT...THEN OPEN YOUR EYES.

—HUH?

...WAIT. WHO ARE YOU ANY-WAY?

MY EYES ARE BURNING...

SO HOT...

!

—HUH!

THIS MUST BE WHAT HE MEANT.

OKAY, THEN, FIRST THINGS FIRST... BETTER FIND A PLACE TO LIVE.

SOME PLACE WHERE I WON'T GET TOO BORED WOULD BE NICE.
SHU (PSSHH)
SHU
SHU

—AND
THUS, THE
TALE OF MY
LONG, LONG
JOURNEY
THROUGH THE
WORLD OF
COMPUTERS
BEGAN.

AUGUST 15, EVENING

MIIN (BUZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

NGH ...

GEEZ, I'M BEAT...

WARA
WARA
WARA
WARA (WANDER)
I AM NEVER, EVER GOING TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK AGAIN...
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
MARIE GETTING ALL WORKED UP AND THEN TOTALLY RUNNING OUT OF GAS ON US...
YO, MARIE, YOU MIND WALKING BY YOURSELF? YOU'RE TIRING HIM OUT.
AW, C'MON, SHINTARO-KUN, THIS IS GREAT!
'SIDES, THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE EVER TO GIVE A GIRL A PIGGYBACK RIDE!
NGH...I'M TIRED... JUST A LITTLE MORE...
SETO...
CARRY ME AGAIN!
HOP ON OVER, MARIE!!
IT'S BEEN A REAL LONG JOURNEY.
AND NOW I'M IN THIS WEIRD BODY, BUT...
WHEE!!
HEE-HEE! LOOK HOW HIGH UP YOU ARE!
HIGHER, HIGHER!!
DUDE, JUST WALK!!
HEH.

HEY, ENE ...

...IS SOMETHING UP?

SU- (FWIP)

!

MASTER!

YOU'RE BEING AWFUL QUIET FOR A CHANGE.

ARE YOU SPACING OUT ON ME, OR WHAT...?

...IT'S NOTHING, MASTER!

JUST REMINISC-ING, IS ALL!

IT'S YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW!

ASKING ME ALL THOSE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY PAST AND STUFF!

HUH?

HANG ON, DO YOU FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT... YOUR PAST, THEN?

I TOLD YOU— THAT'S ALL A SECRET!!

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO NOSY AND RUDE ABOUT THAT!?

WHAA—!?

PUN CONSUMED

IZO

HAVIN' A FIGHT?

OH, DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE ONII-CHAN JUST ASKED ENE-CHAN SOMETHING WEIRD AGAIN!

NO! I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING OF THE SORT!!

HMM?

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU GUYS, SHINTARO?

WHAT THE HELL'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

.....

STOP THAT!!

...PRYING INTO A WOMAN'S PRIVATE AFFAIRS, HUH, SHINTARO?

OHHH, MAN...

NOW'S NOT QUITE THE RIGHT TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT.

NO...

SO, FOR NOW...

EVEN IF I DID, I DON'T KNOW IF HE'D BELIEVE SUCH A BIZARRE STORY.

...FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER...

HEY, IS THAT GUY LOOKING AT US?

HUH?

HMM?

...IF I CAN JUST KEEP THIS UP...

IF I CAN KEEP SMILING AND HAVING FUN LIKE THIS...

HE CAN'T... SEE ME, CAN HE!?

NO.

MY CONCEALING EYES SHOULD HAVE YOU COVERED, KISARAGI.

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

YEAH ...

MAYBE SO...

IA CSHU

...!

ZA

ZA

UH, BOSS...

...

NOW HE'S COMING THIS WAY...!

WHAT...?

WHAT'S... WITH HIM...?

WHAT'S WRONG, MAS—?

?

!!

!!

!!

KONO... HA...?

IS THAT KONOHA ...?
WHY...?

OH, HEY THERE, MAN!

UH...

.....

.....

OH.

SO, UH, SORRY WE'RE KINDA TAKING UP THE WHOLE SIDEWALK HERE...

GUESS WE'RE IN THE WAY, HUH?

WE'LL TRY TO BE MORE CARE-FUL, OKAY...?

ARE YOU THE "DECEIVING" KID FROM BACK THERE?

GOTTEN A LOT BETTER AT USING IT, HAVEN'T YOU?

BA (CLANG)

!?

YOU'LL BE GETTING ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE WOUNDS YOU HATE SO MUCH, HUH?

PAAN
(BLAM)
DOKUN
(BADUM)

DA (DASH)

BA (WHOOSH)

VUUU (VRRR)

VUUL

WHERE DID WE ALL GO WRONG?

WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAP-PEN?

WHERE COULD WE HAVE —?

WHAT?

I GOT SOME-THING WRONG!?

YOU GOT NOTHING RIGHT, MAN.

ARE YOU CAPABLE OF LEARNING ANYTHING?

AW, I THOUGHT I HAD IT TOO...

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST A BAD TEACHER, SHINTARO.

YEAH, YOU WISH.

THE PROBLEM'S WITH YOUR BRAIN!

.....

SAY, SHINTARO...

WHAT?

HEE HEE HEE!

YOU THINK SO...?

MAYBE IT'S MY FAULT AFTER ALL, HUH?

I WAS WONDER-ING...

DO YOU THINK THERE'S SUCH A THING AS HEAVEN?

HUH?

OF COURSE THERE ISN'T.

IT'S JUST PEOPLE DELUDING THEM-SELVES.

BESIDES, IF HEAVEN DID EXIST, SOMEONE WOULD'VE PROVED IT AGES AGO.

OH... REALLY?

?

...
I THINK IT EXISTS.

WELL...

...WHAT KIND OF PARADISE WOULD IT BE IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE SOMEONE BEHIND TO REACH IT?

I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT...

NOT THAT I THINK IT'S SOME PARADISE OPEN TO PEOPLE WHO LIVE GOOD LIVES.

I'LL READ A PROBLEM, AND YOU GIVE THE ANSWER.

HOW 'BOUT WE GO BACK TO TUTORING?

OH, AM I BEING WEIRD?

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

LOOK, WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT...?

OKAY, READY, SHINTARO-KUN?

WHAT IS ○○?

○○.

OOH, THAT'S CORRECT. GOOD ONE.

カチン

KATAN (CLICK)

OKAY...

...HOW ABOUT WE DO THE PROBLEMS THAT YOU NEED TO REVIEW, SHINTARO?

○○... WAIT A SEC.

OKAY, NEXT PROBLEM.

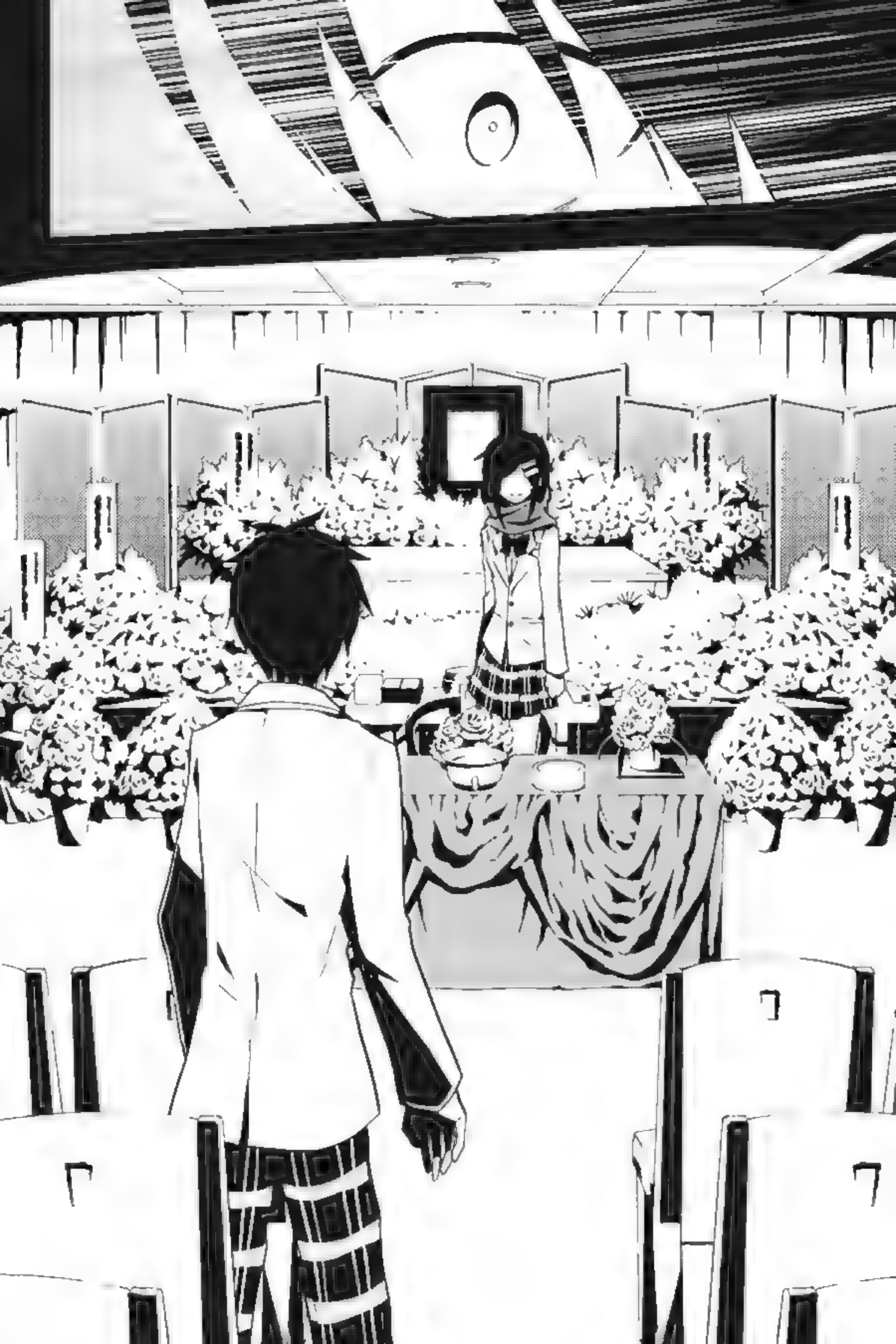
○○○?

THERE'S NO POINT TO ME JUST GIVING YOU THE ANSWERS.

YOU GOTTA LEARN HOW TO DO THIS BY YOURSELF.

OH...

YOU'RE RIGHT, I GUESS.



HERE'S THE QUES-TION—
WHY DO YOU THINK I DIED?

Ah!

.....?

AUGUST 14, 12:32 P.M.

I THINK I JUST HAD A REALLY BAD DREAM, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER IT.

WEIRD...

むくり MUKURI (RISE)

!

がば GABA

WELL, WHATEVER...

GATA (CLATTER)

KASHA (TAP)

KASHA

KASHA KASHA

KACHI
KACHI
KACH
KACHI
KACH
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I'M DEAD IF I CAN'T USE MY PC. DEAD, DEAD, DEAD, DEAD...
DUDE, NO WAY! MY PC FROZE!
BA (PANT)
KACHI (CLICK)
KACHI
IT'S BACK ON...
SU (WOOD)
MM...?
THANK GOD...
WHEW.

Guess which breakout idol is about to make her TV drama debut!

HM?

THAT ACTUALLY MAKES ME A LITTLE NERVOUS, BUT...

AND *SHE'S* NOT AROUND EITHER...

Her new album is on sale now, and...

FEELS LIKE WE WERE ALL GOING NUTS ABOUT THE MAYANS AND THE "END OF THE WORLD" ONLY YESTERDAY.

GUESS IT'S RIGHT BACK TO THE SAME OLD STUFF...

DON'T YOU WANT A LITTLE MORE STIMULATION IN YOUR LIFE?

HUH? OH, LIKE I CARE.

WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH BEING AVERAGE, YOU KNOW?

LEADING A LIFE OF IDLE LEISURE AS ALWAYS, EH, MASTER?

I THINK THIS ROUTINE'S AFFECTING YOUR BRAIN, MASTER...

OH! WAIT A MINUTE!

GO (GLUG) GO

GO

GO

MM?

OH, AND, UH, GEEZ, YOU'RE BACK, ENE?

AGAIN?

WHAT'S "AGAIN" SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

"NUSU" (GRUMP)

BUUUU (SPURRRT)

THAT BOTTLE'S BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR FIVE DAYS NOW.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER, DAMMIT!?

OH, I DUNNO. YOU JUST LOOKED SO HAPPY DRINKING IT, SO...

DAN (SLAM)

LOOK, MAN—

HUH?

DOPPO (BLURP)

DOPPO

DOPPO

DOPPO

DOPPO

DOPPO

DOPPO

WET MESS

UGH...

DAM-MIT...

AAAGH !!!

NOT TONO (THE RABBIT)'S FOOD!!!

CHIRA (GLANCE)

AH, GEEZ...

SO CUTE...

URU

URU (TWINKLE)

URU

キラ KIRA

キラ KIRA

キラ KIRA (SPARKLE)

ONII-CHAN, SHUT UP!!

I COULD HEAR YOU FROM OUT-SIDE!!

OH, UH, HEY...

WAY TO LEAVE THE BAG OPEN...

WORST PET OWNER EVER? OF ALL TIME?

OHHH NOOOO, POOR TONO-CHAN...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED ALL OF THIS!

GACHAN (KCHAK)

SIGHHH...

SO...?

WHAT'S THE BIG CATASTRO-PHE THIS TIME?

AW, YOUR POOR SISTER...

OH, LIKE YOU AREN'T AT FAULT HERE!

I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE! STOP IT!

YOU'LL MAKE THE NEIGHBORS GOSSIP ABOUT US AGAIN...

BISHI (PWIP)

OH, Y'KNOW, IT'S HOT OUTSIDE, SO...

WHA ...!?

WHY ME!?

YOU MIND RUNNING OUT AND GETTING SOME RABBIT FOOD FOR ME?

...OH, HEY, THANKS FOR REMIND-ING ME.

KUH!!?

BESIDES, YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT...

HELP A GUY OUT, HUH?

WHAT... DID YOU...?

FURU (TREMBL) FURU

HMPH (SNEER)

HEY, C'MON, YOU GOT A LOT MORE STAMINA THAN I DO.

GICHI (CREAK)
GICHI
GICHI
GICHI
GO BUY IT YOUR-SELF!!!
DAGON (CLANNNG)
OWW! DON'T JUST THROW THE WASTE-BASKET ON MY HEAD...
OH CRAP, I CAN'T GET IT OFF!!!
WELL, YOU'RE GARBAGE, AFTER ALL.
ALL THE WAY.

KA (GLEAM)
IT'S SO HOT...
FURA (WOBBLE)
ふら…
IT SURE IS.

...HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME ALONG WITH ME.

HAGK! HFF!

HAGK! HFF!

BOTA (DRIP)

BOTA

HAAAH...

SHUT UP, ONII-CHAN.

JUST STOP TALKING.

WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS...?

BESIDES, LOOK AT YOU! HOW CAN—?

UM, EXCUSE ME...

WHA...!?

NO! IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T TRUST YOU TO MANAGE ALONE IN PUBLIC, IDIOT!

LEMME GUESS—

YOU WANTED TO JOIN ME ALL ALONG, YEAH?

NIYA (SMIRK)

ARE YOU MOMO KISARAGI-SAN!?

KIRA (SPARKLE)

UM...!

UH...

UMM...

ARE YOU MOMO KISARAGI-SAN!?

THE POP STAR ...?

KYORO (GLANCE)

I SEE YOU IN ALL THE MAGS AND TV DRAMAS...!

AND... UM...!

UM, I...

ERM...

M-MY NAME IS HIYORI ASAHINA!

I AM SUCH A HUGE FAN!!

KUWA (SHRIEK)

OMI-GOD!

SU (F*#!?)

I'M SORRY— YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON...

IRA (GLK)

NIYA (GRIN)

NIYA

NIYA

LOOK, SHE'S ASKING YOU NICELY. CAN YOU JUST GIVE HER THE DAMN THING...

...OBA-SAN?

OBA...

OBA-SAN ...!!?

HUH!?

OH, NO, I'M JUST A REGULAR GIRL, SO...

.....

SO, UM...

CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH!?

WHOA...

UM...

GUYS ...?

I'M...I'M SORRY...

GRRK!

HIBIYA! HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT TO HER!?

IT'S AN HONOR JUST TO HAVE HER SPEAK TO US!!

BOGUN (WHIMPER)

OOH

NICE SHOT!

OOF!!

UH, NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

THIS LITTLE TURD IS HIBIYA AMAMIYA... HE'S TOO MUCH OF A COUNTRY HICK TO KNOW ABOUT YOU...!

OH, I'M SO SORRY FOR THAT, MOMO-SAN!

PEKO

PEKO BOWS

しおり

PAA (BEAM)

R...

UM, I GUESS...

...IF YOU'D LIKE MY AUTOGRAPH, THEN SURE, BUT...

HISO
HISO
WHAT?
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I'M REALLY SLOW AT WRITING MY FULL AUTO-GRAPH.
HISO
HISO
HUH? HOW SLOW ARE WE TALKING?
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
...
REALLY!? THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH!
...ONII-CHAN?
HISO (WHISPER)
WHAT KIND OF EPIC WORK OF ART IS THIS!?
THAT'S WAY TOO LONG! WHY'D YOU AGREE TO THIS, EVEN!?
TCH.
LIKE, THIRTY MINUTES OR SO...?
ZAWA
ZAWA
NONO-CHAN?
ZAWA (MURMUR)
IS THAT...?
HMM?
YEESH ...
THE FIRST TIME I GO OUT IN AGES, AND THIS HAPPENS ...

わら WARA

WOW.

わら WARA

わら WARA

WARA (CROWD)

IT'S HOMO-CHAN

わら

WARA わら

わら WARA

BA (FWP)

I THOUGHT WE'D BE SAFE AWAY FROM THE MAIN ROADS...

...!

HEY, UH, THIS IS PRETTY BAD, ISN'T IT?

ALL THESE ONLOOKERS...

BUSTING THAT OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN IS PRETTY BAD MANNERS...

...SIR.

.....!

KAKARA (FLASH)

TALK ABOUT A HUGE LACK OF COMMON SENSE!!

TRYING TO SNAP A PHOTO OF A GIRL WITHOUT PERMIS-SION?

YOU PEOPLE NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

KA (GLARE)

!!!

POKAN (GAPE)

SO JUST GET OUT OF HERE! ALL OF YOU!

ANY-WAY—!

MOMO-SAN'S HAVING SOME PRIVATE TIME NOW!

BUT YOU ASKED HER FOR HER— GNFF!

KURU CTURN
BOY, THAT WAS ROUGH, WASN'T IT, MOMO-SAN?
HUH!?
UH...
FUUU (FWOOO)
Y-YEAH...
SHE KINDA RESCUED US THOUGH...
WOW, WHAT A CRAZY CHICK...

...OH...
YEAH? WHAT IS IT?
SO... UM...
OH, NO, NO!
I MEAN, SORRY TO PUT YOU IN THAT SPOT!
IT WAS NO PROBLEM AT ALL!

NIKO (GRIND)

WE'D BETTER BE GETTING BACK HOME, SO...

...ENJOY YOUR FREE TIME...

...WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND OVER THERE!

UM...

I DON'T REALLY NEED AN AUTOGRAPH. SORRY I PUT YOU THROUGH ALL OF THAT.

?

IT'S MY FAULT NOW!?

SHE MISTOOK MY MASTER FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND! I FEEL SO AWFUL FOR YOU!

WHAT COULD YOU BE THINKING, MASTER!?

"SHUT-IN FREAK IN THE JACKET"!?

BUN

BUN (WAVE)

WHAA ...!!?

N-N-NO! NO, THAT'S WRONG, THAT'S WRONG! THIS SHUT-IN FREAK IN THE JACKET IS MY BROTHER!

きょとん...

KYOTON (SHOCK)

I FEEL BAD FOR THAT DUDE IN THE RED JACKET...

AND WHO'S THE CHICK ON THE PHONE...?

UH, SO... YEAH.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LIKE THAT, SO DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, OKAY?

OHHH, I GOTCHA!

SORRY I JUMPED TO CONCLU-SIONS.

THAT'S OKAY. IT'S ALL MR. RED JACKET'S FAULT.

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?

SO...

...LEMME ASK YOU...

WE'RE GONNA DO SOME SHOPPING, IF YOU'D LIKE ...

... DO YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?

ARE... ARE YOU SERI-OUS!?

SURE! I WANT TO REPAY YOUR KINDNESS, AND I'D TAKE TOO LONG TO WRITE AN AUTOGRAPH OUT HERE...

THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT, ONII-CHAN?

HUH? UH...

WELL, IF SHE WANTS TO, THEN SURE, I GUESS.

WHAA ...!?

WHOA...

WOOOW!

JUST WOOOW! THANK YOUUU!!!

GU (GRIT)

?

HUH?

OH, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

IS THERE ANY REASON WHY IT'S GOTTA BE JUST US?

WAIT A SEC!

YOU WERE GONNA GO SHOPPING WITH ME TODAY...

?

CHIRA (GLANCE)

SEE WHAT...?

WELL, UH...

WELL... I MEAN, NO, BUT...

OHKU (FLINCH)

AH-HA...

I THINK I SEE NOW...

HE WANTED A DATE, HUH...?

NIYA (SMIRK)

NIYA

YOU KNOW?

I DUNNO— I GET THIS SENSE THAT I MIGHT'VE RUDELY INTERRUPTED SOMETHING HERE.

.....!!!?

WHA...?

WHAT!?

WHAT KIND OF DUMB CRAP ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT!?

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, OBA—

HYU (WHIP)

OKAY, YOU READY?

UM...IT'S HIYORI-CHAN, RIGHT?

YEP!

OH, UH, I'LL CLEAR THE WAY FOR YOU, OKAY?

WE WOULDN'T WANT ANOTHER BIG CROWD LIKE THAT.

R-REALLY?

SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU...

IA (ISH)

I DON'T NEED TO HEAR IT FROM YOU...

... MAN... YOU GOT SCREWED THERE, HUH?

SOME SHOPPING TRIP THIS WOUND UP BEING...

PACKAGES: EVERYDAY TASTE, HAIRBALL CARE

BOX: SPECIAL PRICE! RABBIT PELLETS—IT'S CHEAP! IT'S GOOD! IT'S ECONO-SIZED! / PACKAGES: RABBIT FOOD

BOARD: (CORNER) TO HIYORI-CHAN / (FOREHEAD) MOMO

THAT AUTOGRAPH'S DOWNRIGHT DISTURBING...

PA
CHLASHO
!!!

GAME

AH HAH HAH HAH!

THAT FACE YOU'RE MAKING IS RIDICULOUS, ONII-CHAN! HILARIOUS!

NGH... SHUT UP, SIS...

ZUSSHIRI (GLOOM)

LET'S DO IT AGAIN SOON, OKAY?

OOH, CAN WE!? THAT'D BE GREAT!

I AM NOT GOING... I AM SO NOT GOING...

TODAY WAS JUST A TOTAL BLAST!

IT WAS!

I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN AGES!

PFFT.

HAAH...

WHAT AN ODYSSEY... ALL OF THESE IMPROMPTU STOPS...

WE'VE GOT FAMILY HERE TO TAKE CARE OF US DURING THE SUMMER.

HUH ...?

REALLY ?

BUT YOU AND HIBIYA-KUN ARE ONLY HERE IN TOWN FOR THE SUMMER, RIGHT, HIYORI-CHAN?

YEAH.

WELL, GREAT!

CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE FOR A SEC, HIYORI-CHAN?

?

UM ...

SURE, BUT...

OKAY, I PUT MY NUMBER IN!

SU (SHAKE)

!!

!!

MOMO-SAN...!!

SYU (CLUTCH)

LET'S GO OUT AGAIN WHILE YOU'RE STILL HERE!

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU TO CONTACT ME, OKAY?

NIKO (SMILE)

ニコ～♡

TOO BAD WE COULDN'T UNLOAD SOME OF YOUR SISTER'S POP-IDOL WORK ON YOU, MASTER.

MOYA (PUFF)

GIKU (TWITCH)

EH!?

OH! HA-HA! IT'LL BE FINE, PROBABLY!

AND STOP CALLING ME OBA-SAN!!

DO YOU EVEN HAVE THAT KIND OF FREE TIME, OBA-SAN?

SIGH...

ALREADY LIKE GOOD FRIENDS, HUH...?

MOYA

MOYA

MOYA

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME INTO...?

ANY-WAY...

ZA (CSH)

OH, OF COURSE! I CAN'T WAIT!

I'D LOVE TO DO IT AGAIN, IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER!

OKAY!

...WE'RE GOING THIS WAY, SO...

AH...

AHH, BLISS...

SU (SHF)

Y-YEAH?

COME HERE A SEC, HIBIYA-KUN.

OH, RIGHT, RIGHT!

KOI (WAVE) KOI

!!!?

THAT KEY CHAIN YOU PICKED UP EARLIER...

...YOU'RE GIVING THAT TO HIYORI-CHAN, RIGHT?

HISO (WHISPER)

...

NIYA (SMIRK)

NIYA

YOU KNOW, THERE'S A PRETTY NICE PARK JUST AROUND THE CORNER FROM HERE...

I'D SAY RIGHT NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO DO IT, Y'KNOW?

NGH...

HEE-HEE-HEE! I KNEW IT...

WHA ...!?

WH-WHEN DID YOU...?

?

KAAAA

GBLUUUUSHD

HEE HEE HEE!

GOOD LUCK, KID!

NI GORIMO

DA CDASHO

SHUT UP!

DON'T STICK YOUR NOSE IN THIS, OBA-SAN!!

I WASN'T THINKING ANY-THING!

PROBABLY NOTHING AS TWISTED AND PERVERTED AS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MASTER.

WHAT WERE THEY JUST TALKING ABOUT?

MO

MO

MO

MO

MO

MO (NIBBLE)

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE WENT OUTSIDE, AFTER ALL.

STILL, THAT WAS A PRETTY LONG DAY, WASN'T IT...?

YEAH, NOBODY DESERVES TO STARVE BECAUSE SOME SHUT-IN'S "EPIC" JOURNEY FAILED.

THIS TOOK A LOT OF EFFORT, SO...

SHUT UP!

SORRY TO MAKE YOU GO HUNGRY THERE, TONO-CHAN.

ONII-CHAN, HELP ME!!!

BATAN (SLAM)

BIKU (FLINCH)

GAAH!

HAAH...

I KINDA LIKE THINGS AS THEY ARE NOW.

BESIDES, AREN'T YOU—?

BUT IT WAS A PRETTY NICE WALK! KEEP IT UP, AND WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK IN SOCIETY IN NO TIME!

WHAT...

AT LEAST TRY TO KNOCK, OKAY?

WHY'RE YOU BARGING IN HERE!?

HUH?

WITH A KEY CHAIN? WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?

HIBIYA-KUN MEANT TO GIVE THIS TO HIYORI-CHAN...!

...

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO WITH THIS...?

I MEAN...

...TODAY, HIBIYA-KUN WAS GONNA...

I THINK I ACCIDENTALLY TOOK IT WHEN WE WENT IN THAT CAFÉ...

OH, IS THAT ALL IT IS?

SO WHY DON'T YOU CALL HIM ABOUT IT TOMORROW OR SOMETHING?

JUST TELL HIM YOU TOOK IT BY ACCIDENT.

NO...

THAT WON'T WORK!

LEMME TRY HIYORI-CHAN'S PHONE!

YOU ARE JUST TERRIBLE AT READING PEOPLE, AREN'T YOU, MASTER?

UH...

WHAT?

LOOK, WE BETTER CONTACT HIM RIGHT NOW!

GONNA DO WHAT?

RIGHT, ENE-CHAN!?

I THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, YEAH...

LISTEN, I'M SORRY, BUT I ACCIDENTALLY...

PURURU (RING)

OH!

HIYORI-CHAN!?

Help...

WHAT...?

No.1

just stop!!!!

KIK!!!!!!!!!!
(SCREEEECH)

BIKU
(TWITCH)

DASHAAAN
(CRAAAASH)

PUTSUN (CLICK)

HEY! HIYORI-CHA—

WHAT JUST HAP-PENED!?

H...

HIYORI-CHAN!?

WHAT'S UP...?

WHAT...?

WHAT WAS THAT...

...ALL ABOUT...?

■TO BE CONTINUED

YOU'LL BE GETTING ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE WOUNDS...

PON (BANG)

UHH.

UH.

DO IT OVER!

FROM THE START OF #18.

OKAY...

4 VOLUMES!!

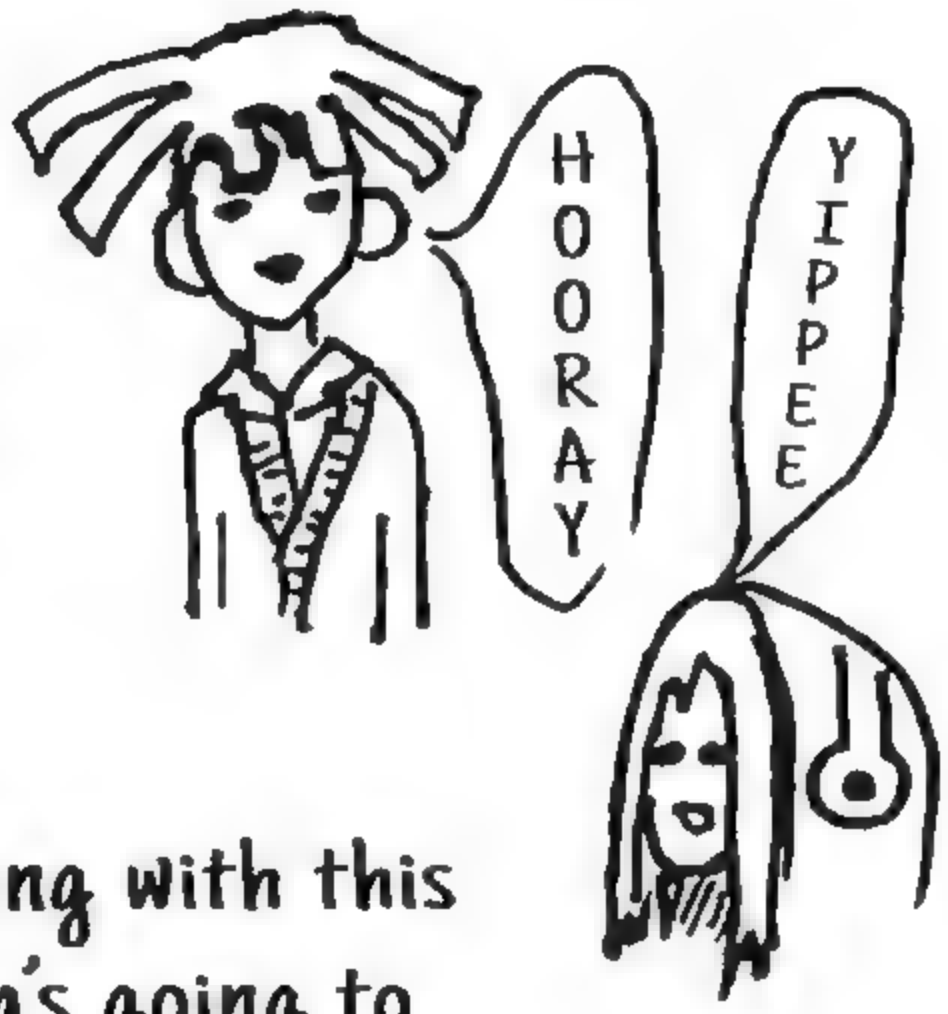
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!!

IT'S THE END OF FEBRUARY AS I'M WRITING THIS, AND THE *MEKAKUCITY ACTORS* ANIME IS JUST ABOUT TO KICK OFF. THAT'S AWESOME! IT'S CRAZY, IN A WAY, SEEING ALL THESE GUYS MOVE AROUND AND SPEAK. TOTALLY CRAZY...SHINTARO'S GONNA BE STUTTERING ALL OVER THE PLACE—WHEN HE ISN'T PUKING, THAT IS—IS WHAT I'M GUESSING. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!!! OVER ON THE MANGA SIDE OF THINGS, I'VE KICKED OFF AN ORIGINAL STORY ARC WRITTEN BY JIN-SAN HIMSELF! HOPEFULLY, ALL OF YOU WILL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON IT AS IT UNFOLDS. I'LL SEE YOU ALL IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

佐藤まひろ

MAHIRO SATOU

IT'S HERE! Manga Volume 4 on Sale!!



I'd like to thank everyone kind enough to pick up Volume 4 of the manga. Starting with this volume, the manga's going to break off into an original story arc. We're all doing our best to keep it fun and exciting for all, so I hope you'll keep cheering us on!

Jin

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE LAUNCH OF MANGA VOLUME 4.

With the manga now going off in its own, original direction, I'm getting even more excited about the comic version than I was before.

I really love how Mahiro-sensei draws faces when they're meant to look all mean and evil.

That, and I'm also starting to have trouble figuring out what to write in these little bonus pages. Big problems for me ahead, I guess.

Anyway, thanks as always for your support.

L7"

Sidu

■TRANSLATION NOTES

Common Honorifics:
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.
-oniisan, *onii-san*, etc.: Terms used to address an elder brother or brother-like figure.
-oneesan, *onee-san*, etc.: Terms used to address an elder sister or sister-like figure.

Conversion:
Though exact exchange rates fluctuate daily, a good conversion estimate to use is ¥100 to every 1 USD.

Chapter Titles:
Each chapter title, as well as the title of this manga, refers to a specific musical composition from JIN (Shizen no Teki-P).

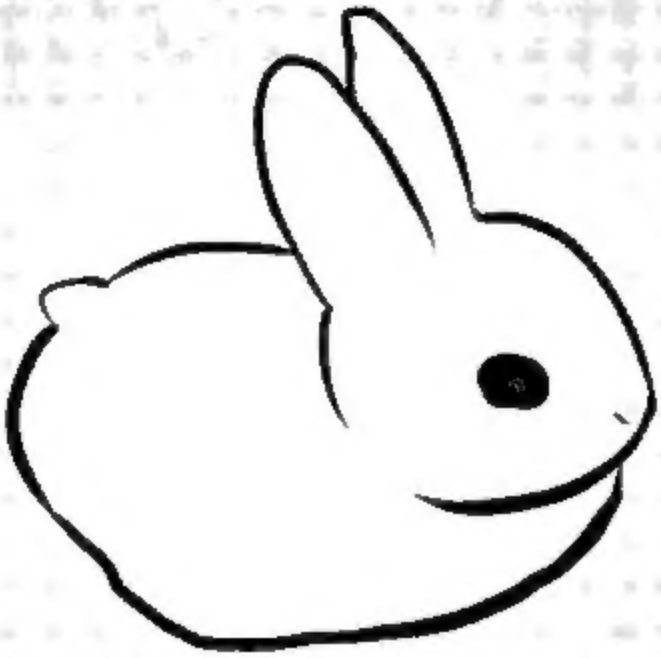
Kagerou means "mirage" or "heat haze." Yuukei means "nightscape." Finally, a mekakushi is a blindfold, thus Mekakushi-dan could be translated as "Blindfold Gang."

PAGE 40
Summer school: In Japan, the school year begins in April and is divided into three terms, the first of which ends in July before the start of summer break—and summer school. If Ayano is attending summer school as a first-year, it means that she is already failing just three months into the school year, hence Takane's surprise.

PAGE 80
Delete: Takane struggles to read the English command key, which appears to her eyes as a romanization of the Japanese *dere te*. *Dere* can mean "flirtatious," so she interprets the word as a command to giggle like an enamored schoolgirl.

PAGE 132
Oba-san: Used to refer to an aunt or an older women, similar to "ma'am." However, it can be taken as an insult akin to "old hag" when used to address a young girl like Momo.

TONO



NAME: TONO

Shintaro's rabbit.

Raised on expensive food and top-of-the-line bedding.

Big fan of papayas and electrical cables.

Despite being female, her name is a fancy way of saying "mister" in Japanese.

KAGEROU DAZE 04

MAHIRO SATOU
Original Story: JIN
(SHIZEN NO TEKI P)
Character Design: SIDU, WANNYANPOO

Translation: Kevin Gifford • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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